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San Francisco in 1915. Mr. Polk was associated for twelve years with Mr. D. H. Burnham and collaborated with him in making the San Francisco plan. Mr. Faville is a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and got his training in the office of McKim, Mead and White. Mr. Ward received his education exclusively in the west, having resided since boyhood in California.

"THE BETTER  
CITY"

Boston having set her face toward civic betterment moves steadily in that direction but with characteristic deliberation. The *Bulletin* recently published by the Metropolitan Improvement League of that city sets forth an impressive list of improvements completed within the last year or under construction, to show that real progress is being made. These embrace harbor improvements, transportation facilities, parks, playgrounds, public buildings, streets and public monuments. The most notable perhaps is the development of the Charles River Basin which should prove of enormous value as an addition to the recreative resources of the city. On the first of last July, this work being completed, the care and maintenance of the Basin was passed over to the Metropolitan Park Commission with the understanding that the recreative opportunities which it provided would be well and intelligently developed. Already it is said the River bank esplanade has become one of the greatest and best appreciated public promenades in the city, and the facilities for aquatic pleasure offered by the Basin are utilized to a remarkable extent. In developing her water-front Boston is far in advance of other American cities. Attention is called in the *Bulletin* to the necessity of rebuilding the bridges on the Basin as one of the most important features of development, and reference is made to Mr. Larz Anderson's generous offer to supply the additional funds required for a monumental new bridge, connecting Harvard University with Soldiers' Field, as "suggesting the possibility of similar public-spirited activities in re-

lation to other bridges across the river." The Metropolitan Improvement League, through its secretary, Mr. Sylvester Baxter, combats forcibly in this report any encroachment on park property, maintaining that all the parks should be held as sacred as Boston Common is, and that park lands were taken primarily and solely for park purposes. Through the income of the Parkman Fund the improvement of several city parks, but most especially the Common, has recently been made possible, and Mr. Arthur A. Shurtleff, who is a member of the League and at the same time an expert landscape architect, has been appointed professional adviser to the Boston Park Department. Some progress has been made in planting shade trees in the city, through the cooperation of private individuals, notably on Beacon street, but next to none on the treeless islands in Boston Bay. Apparently the "necessity of beauty" has not as yet made a sufficiently strong appeal to those who hold the city's purse strings. But improvement in the East moves forward slowly; workers and supporters are added one by one, it is not as in the West a general contagion which animates a precipitous plunge wherein work is executed, as it were, with a whoop and shout in the twinkling of an eye. If such a contagion should strike Boston how amazing would be the result! As it is, inclination is shown to follow Western example. The possibility of holding an outdoor exhibition of sculpture such as has been successfully held in Chicago is being considered by the League, as well as an exhibition of pictures relating to "Picturesque Boston," similar to those held in certain cities west of the Alleghenies, is projected. To those working for civic betterment this *Bulletin Number 2*, published under the title "The Better City," is heartily commended.

PRACTICAL ART  
IN ST. PAUL

Employers of artists and designers generally complain that the schools do not prepare students for practical work; while, on the other hand, students who have put in three or four years in art

schools find it difficult to sell their art or find employment.

In the progressive west there is a school where employers and future artists and designers are getting together. The Saint Paul Institute School of Art, besides regular academic training, offers courses in "commercial" art, conducted under the direction of experts. The problems for advanced students are taken from the actual orders in establishments where art is applied commercially, and the finished studies are submitted to these same establishments for criticism and suggestions.

The plan is working admirably, both in raising the standard of "commercial" art and in insuring employment to students who must find, in their educations, means of a livelihood.

The faculty consists of eight specialists under the direction of Lee Woodward Zeigler, who jealously guards against violence being done to legitimate art standards and sees that art is applied to commercialism rather than commercialism to art.

Students of this school, under the personal direction of Mr. Zeigler, painted four "back-drop" curtains, each 35x60 feet, for the Pageant which was given under the direction of Mr. Zeigler in St. Paul last spring.

#### MOVING PICTURE SHOWS IN WASHINGTON

The Washington Society of the Fine Arts last winter appointed a special committee to make inquiry into the Moving Picture Shows, realizing that this form of entertainment had become a large factor in the life of the masses and that it might be used as an instrument, either for good or evil. The committee made a thorough investigation, visiting, more than once, all or almost all of the Moving Picture Shows in Washington, and its report is interesting. A great improvement in the general character of the picture shows is noted. The committee expected to find them objectionable to the last degree, but instead discovered that in most instances they were not only interesting and entertaining, but had general educational value.

Among the most popular films exhibited were those picturing life in the jungle, wild creatures in their native haunts, flights of birds, hunting scenes, majestic scenery, religious ceremonials, military maneuvers, life-saving crews at work, and scenes in cities and towns in foreign countries. Occasionally, it is stated, a film would be presented which might be supposed to have a bad effect upon the morals of the young people who were in attendance, such, for example, as an exhibition of discord between husband and wife, juvenile lovers outwitting their parents, impish tricks of children, and suffering and crime, but even these were no worse than things commonly portrayed in the regular theaters, or reported in newspapers and to be found in accepted fiction. The improvement is placed to the credit of the National Board of Censorship, in New York, the influence of which has been far-reaching. The chief objection found by this committee to the Picture Shows, as they are at present conducted in Washington, was, in fact, chiefly hygienic, the strain to the eyes because of the unsteadiness of the pictures, and poor ventilation of the buildings wherein they are shown, the majority of which are old stores and residences remodeled rather than structures erected for the purpose. The danger of decreasing the capacity of the habitual patrons of these shows for sustained attention because of the fragmentary character of the episodes and subjects presented, is called to attention, as well as the fact that the possibilities of thus pictorially presenting drama seem as yet to be little realized.

#### NEWS ITEMS

Much interest attaches to the announcement of an exhibition of works by the members of the Société des Peintres et Sculpteurs, formerly the Société Nouvelle, of Paris, which is to be held in this country during the coming season. This exhibition, which will include paintings by such well-known artists as Besnard, Simon, Cottet, Aman Jean, and Ménard, was arranged for by Miss Cornelia B. Sage, director of the Buffalo Academy of